

Official Correspondence on the Mason and Slidell Affair.

New York, Dec. 28. The official correspondence between our Government and Great Britain, relative to the seizure of the Confederate Commissioners, Slidell and Mason, is received.

MR. SEWARD TO MR. ADAMS.
The first is a letter from Secretary Seward to Minister Adams, dated Nov. 30, in which he compliments the latter for so wisely speaking and acting at the Lord Mayor's dinner, and also states that he told Lord Palmerston the simple fact when informing him that the life of the insurrection is sustained by the hopes of a recognition of the Southern Confederacy by England and France, and if those hopes ceased, the insurrection would perish in ninety days.

He refers in the same note to the fact of the arrest of Slidell and Mason by Capt. Wilkes as a new and unforeseen circumstance, which is to be met by the two governments, if possible, in a kindly spirit. Lord Lyons had said nothing on the subject, and no explanations were furnished Minister Adams, it being deemed prudent that the ground taken by the British Government should be first made known here, and discussion to be had here.

But Mr. Seward deemed it proper to state that Capt. Wilkes acted without instructions and the subject, therefore, is free from the embarrassments that might have ensued if the act had been specially directed. He trusts that the British Government will consider the subject in a friendly temper, and it may expect the best disposition on our part.

EARL RUSSELL TO LORD LYONS.
The next letter is from Earl Russell to Lord Lyons, dated Nov. 30, which details the Trent affair. He says:—"It thus appears that certain individuals have been forcibly taken from a British vessel, the ship of a neutral power on a lawful and innocent voyage, an act of violence which was an affront to the British flag and a violation of national law."

Her Majesty's Government are well aware to believe the act was without authority and resulted from misunderstanding, as the Government of the United States must be fully aware that the British Government will not allow such an affront to its national honor to pass without due reparation, and the British Government are unwilling to believe that the United States deliberately intended unnecessarily to force a discussion of so grave a question between the two governments.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the Government of the United States will, of its own accord, offer such redress as alone could satisfy them, namely, the liberation of the four persons and their delivery to Lord Lyons, that they may again be placed under British protection, and a suitable apology for the aggression committed. Should these terms not be offered by Mr. Seward, you will propose them to him.

MR. SEWARD TO LORD LYONS.
Mr. Seward replies to Lord Lyons, by whom he was furnished a copy of Earl Russell's letter stating that the despatch has been submitted to the President. Mr. Seward states that the British Government rightly conjectured what it was now his duty to state, that Capt. Wilkes acted upon his own suggestions of duty without any direction or instruction, or even foreknowledge of it on the part of this government.

No directions had been given him or any other naval officer to arrest the four persons or any of them on the Trent or any other British vessel, or any neutral vessel there or elsewhere. After discussing the whole question at great length in all its bearings, Mr. Seward said: "I trust I have shown to the satisfaction of the British Government by a very simple and natural statement of facts and analysis of law applicable to them, that this Government has neither meditated nor practiced or approved any deliberate wrong in the transaction to which they have called its attention, and, on the contrary, what has happened has been simply an inadvertency consisting in a departure by the naval officer, free from any wrongful motive, from a rule uncertainly established, and probably, by the several parties concerned, imperfectly understood or entirely unknown. For this error the British Government has a right to expect the same reparation that we as an independent State should expect from Great Britain or from any friendly nation in a similar case."

I have not been unaware that in examining this question I have fallen into an argument for what seems to be the British side of it against my own country, but I am relieved from all embarrassment on that subject. I had hardly fallen into that line of argument when I found I was really defending and maintaining not an exclusively British interest, but an old, honored and cherished American cause, not upon British authorities, but upon principles that constitute a large portion of the distinctive policy by which the United States have developed the resources of a continent, and thus becoming a considerable maritime power, have won the respect and confidence of many nations.

These principles were laid down for us by Mr. Madison in 1804, when Secretary of State under Jefferson, in instructions to James Monroe, our then Minister to England.

Mr. Seward says, after quoting these instructions, "If I decide this case in favor of my own government, I must disallow its most cherished principles, and reverse and forever abandon its essential policy. The country cannot afford the sacrifice. If I maintain these principles and adhere to that policy, I must surrender the case itself. It will be seen, therefore, that this government could not deny the justice of the claim presented. We are asked to do to the British nation just what we have always insisted all nations ought to do to us. In coming to my conclusion, I have not forgotten that if the safety of this Union required the detention of the captured prisoners, it would be the right and duty of this government to detain them."

But the effectual check and warning proportions of the existing insurrection, as well as the comparative unimportance of the captured persons themselves, when dispassionately weighed, happily forbid me from resorting to that defence. Nor am I unaware that American citizens are not in any case to be unnecessarily surrendered for any purpose into the keeping of a foreign State; only the captured persons, however, or others who are interested in them, could justly raise a question on that ground. It would tell little for our own claims to the character of a just and magnanimous people, if we should so far consent to be guided by the law of retaliation as to lift up buried injuries against national consistency and national conscience. Putting behind me all suggestions of this kind, I prefer to express my satisfaction that by the ad-

justment of the present case upon principles confessedly American, and yet as I trust mutually satisfactory to both nations concerned, a question is finally and rightfully settled between them, which heretofore exhausting not only all forms of peaceful discussion, but also the arbitrament of war itself, for more than half a century alienated the two countries from each other, and perplexed with fears and apprehensions all other nations.

The four persons in question are now held in military custody at Fort Warren in the State of Massachusetts. They will be cheerfully liberated. Your Lordship will please indicate a time and place for receiving them. I renew my assurance of my very high consideration.

(Signed) WM. H. SEWARD.
LORD LYONS TO MR. SEWARD.
The following is from Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.
The Hon. W. H. Seward, &c.: Sir—I have this morning received the note which you did me the honor to address to me yesterday in answer to Earl Russell's dispatch of Nov. 30, relative to the removal of Mr. Mason, Mr. Slidell, Mr. McFarland and Mr. Eustis from the British mail packet Trent.

I will without loss of time forward to her Majesty's Government a copy of the important communication which you have made to me. I will also without delay do myself the honor to confer with you personally on the arrangement to be made for delivering the four gentlemen to me, in order that they may be again placed under the protection of the British flag.

I have the honor to be, &c., LYONS
(Signed) M. THOUVENAL'S OPINION.

A dispatch from M. Thouvenal to Mr. Mercur, French Minister to our Government, is also contained in the correspondence, in which M. Thouvenal urges that a neutral flag from a neutral to another neutral port covers the persons and merchandise it carries, and adopts the principle laid down in the dispatch of Earl Russell, to which Mr. Seward appropriately replies.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE FREEMAN

7 O'CLOCK, A. M.

FROM MISSOURI.
On Saturday Gen. Prentiss with 450 men encountered and dispersed 900 rebels under Col. Dersey at Mount Zion, Boone County, killing and wounding 150 and capturing 33 prisoners, 95 horses, and 105 guns. Our loss was only 3 killed and 11 wounded.

The rebels burned another train on the North Missouri Railroad on Saturday, and they say that they intend to destroy all the cars on the road, so as to prevent its being used.

The bridges over the Fabin's and North rivers on the Palmyra Railroad were set on fire by rebels Friday night and destroyed.

SOUTHERN ITEMS.
The Charleston Courier of the 27th states that some Yankee gunboats exchanged a few shots with the Cole Island battery on Thursday. Dispatches received from Charleston, state that a Federal fleet of 12 gunboats had passed up to White Point on the North Edisto and made demonstrations on Gen. Evans' forces. Re-enforcements were sent Gen. Evans and battle was expected. Demonstrations had also been made at other points.

The North Carolina batteries disabled a few Federal gunboats on Tuesday.

Five Federal steamers anchored off Cole Island Thursday night, and a battle was expected every hour.

An Augusta despatch of the 27th, says it is reported that the British steamer Gladiator had entered a confederate port with large quantities of arms, ammunition, &c.

The Richmond Examiner says that a painful rumor was in circulation, that a gentleman of that city holding a commission in the army of the Potomac had committed suicide by shooting himself through the head.

NOT GONE YET.
Steamer Jura has sailed. Had not Mason and Slidell aboard.

FROM PORT ROYAL.
Steamer Empire City from Beaufort and Port Royal the 25th, arrived at New York Sunday morning. She came out of Port Royal by the Southeast Channel, which has been buoyed and has not less than 30 feet of water in it.

The 79th regiment had made reconnaissance 15 miles from Beaufort, capturing 6 rebels. Our troops were still building entrenchments on Tybee Island, while Port Pulaski kept up continual fire on them without damage.

A rebel boat came from Warsaw channel on the 23d from Savannah, reconnoitering to see if there was any way clear for English steamer Fingal, to get out with her cargo of cotton.—The boat was chased by a gun boat, the former running ashore, and crew escaping to the woods except two who were put on board the Wabash.

The captain, officers and crews of 20 of the stone fleet are passengers by the Empire City. 16 of the stone fleet have been sunk in Charleston harbor. Col. Strickland and Lieutenant Smith of the 8th Maine, Capt. J. Hines, Wentworth and Wedgeworth of the 9th Maine, and Capt. Newell of the 4th New Hampshire regiment, are also passengers.

FROM WASHINGTON.
A foraging expedition of five regiments on Friday brought in 80 loads of forage, and on Saturday 70 more from the neighborhood of Fairfax Court House. Gen. McDowell's division was reviewed on Saturday at Ball's crossroads, after which the troops had a sham battle having taken positions as in actual engagement.

Gen. McCat's division was reviewed on Sunday at Langley by Gov. Curtin, Sec. Cameron, and Assistant Secretary of War Scott. The army officers all say that our troops have remarkably improved in discipline.

Very Latest by Telegraph!

4 O'CLOCK P. M.

FROM WASHINGTON.

New York, Dec. 30.

The World's Washington dispatch says the manner in which Mason and Slidell are to be given up has been left to Lord Lyons who will doubtless have it done in a manner least offensive to the government. They will probably be put on board the steamer America which sails from New York, next Wednesday and which will it is understood, be required to stop at Boston.

It will rejoice the friends of Col. Corcoran and other gallant officers held as hostages by the rebels to know that on suggestion of Mr. Faulkner their prison will probably be rendered more comfortable.

Letters received by Mr. Ely from prisoners sent to Tuscaloosa Ala., indicate that they are quite comfortable. None of the prisoners at Richmond, Charleston, or Tuscaloosa suffered much from heat during the summer.

GEN. BURNSIDE.

The Times dispatch says Gen. Burnside arrived at Washington yesterday morning and has been in consultation with the President and Gen. McClellan most all day.

FROM THE REBELDOM.

From a gentleman just returned from Richmond, we learn the following interesting facts: The rebels have great confidence that they would defeat the Union troops in a fair field and that it was impossible for them to be conquered.—They declared rather than come again into the Union, the South would become a province of England.

Some members of Congress were urging Jeff Davis to consent to no more exchange of prisoners unless we should consider fugitives slaves prisoners of war and exchange them.

A list of prisoners to be returned in exchange for 250 lately sent by us was preparing on which three months men would have the preference.

SUSPENSION OF SPECIE PAYMENT.

The Boston and New York Banks have suspended specie payments.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

As the steamboat Express, which runs between Old Point and Newport News was leaving the latter place yesterday morning a rebel tug boat was seen off Sewall's Point. She wore a Commodore's blue pennant, which was mistaken for a flag of truce, but on the Express arriving within range she fired a shot across her bows followed by several shells. The greatest consternation prevailed for a short time on board the Express which is unarmed, and the schooner Sherwood employed to bring water from Newport News, which was at the time in tow was set adrift.

The Sherwood was immediately deserted by her crew of four men, who escaped by a small boat to Newport News. The schooner drifted down with the tide and was taken possession of by the rebel tug and towed to Craney Island.—Her captain stuck to her and was made a prisoner. The tug made its appearance a second time, but the Express had crowded all steam on and reported the circumstances to the flag-ship. After a long delay half a dozen gunboats got started, and steaming towards the scene threw a few shells into Sewall's Point and Pig Point batteries, but without effect, as far as it is known. But for the inexcusable delay in the gunboats getting to the spot, the tug might have been intercepted and the schooner saved.

She had a valuable force pump on board. The loss is about \$2000. The schooner belonged to Assistant Quartermaster Noyes. The steam frigate Brooklyn arrived from Philadelphia this afternoon. A flag of truce was sent down this P. M., but we hear no news. A note from Gen. Huger to Gen. Wool announces that he is ready to start 250 prisoners down James River from Richmond whenever they will be received. Gen. Wool will send a flag of truce to meet them Thursday or Friday next. No list of those to be released has yet been received.

FROM KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 30.

The Journal has a letter from Louisville giving an account of a slight skirmish in Adair County, in which the rebel loss was several killed, while the Federals suffered none.

Humphrey Marshall, with 6500 troops is fortifying Prestonsburg, and is expected soon to march towards Maysville. Gen. Boei had ordered a brigade under Col. Garfield forward, and a battle is expected very shortly.

THE venerable Capt. Jewett, father of Col. E. P. Jewett, of this village, died last night, (the 29th,) at the advanced age of 95 years.

OYSTER AND REFRESHMENT ROOMS.

BY L. G. TOWN,
WHERE HE KEEPS CONSTANTLY ON HAND,
Oysters, Clams, Fresh Fish, Poultry, Eggs,
Meats of all kinds,
Fruits of all kinds.

Nuts of all kinds,
Candies of all kinds.

MEALS SERVED AT ALL HOURS!

Rooms fitted up expressly for Private Parties.
Entrance under A. A. Mead's Jewelry Store,
STATE STREET, Montpelier, Vt.

WINNIE SHADERS, PICTURE FRAMES,
BARCOCK & CO'S.

NOTICE.
THIS is to certify that I have sold to my son, Edwin F. Lamb, his time during the remainder of his minority, and shall claim none of his earnings nor pay any debts of his contracting after this date.

Attest, RUFUS RICHMOND.
Burlington, Dec. 7 1861. (w2*)

BARRE ACADEMY.
THE winter term will begin on Tuesday, Nov. 28. Board from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per week. Rooms for self-boarding may be obtained at low rates.

J. S. SPAULDI NG.
Barre, Nov. 9, 1861. 1207*



DR. N. G. WHITE'S
PULMONARY
ELIXIR
— FOR —
Coughs, Colds, Croup, Asthma,
Whooping Cough,
And other Lung Affections.

IT IS WARRANTED.
To Relieve the Croup in thirty Minutes
To Relieve a Common cold immediately.
To Relieve the Asthma at once.
To Cure Hoarseness of Singers or Speakers.
To always Loosen a Cough.
To always cause the Patient to Raise Phlegm.
To always produce Rest at Night.

Read the following evidence from some of our most prominent citizens of this State.

CROUP CURED.

My child is subject to attacks of Croup. It cures at once.

H. JENNISON, East Albany.

I have a child that was attacked with Membranous Croup. We gave her Dr. N. G. White's Elixir, and to the surprise of all it gave her immediate relief.

ZEPHAR VINTON, East Bethel.

My little boy had a violent attack of Croup last week. We gave him in thirty minutes a free use of Dr. N. G. White's Elixir.

WM. MARTIN, merchant.

COUGHS AND COLDS CURED.
This certifies that N. G. White's Pulmonary Elixir has been used in my family in cases of severe colds, attended with sore throat, and has been found a reliable medicine in these cases.

REV. J. W. WOODWARD, Westford, Vt.

I have used Dr. White's Pulmonary Elixir in my family for two years, and have found it the best medicine I have ever used for Coughs, Colds, and Sore Throat.

EUGENE MEECH, Shelburne.

I have used it in my family and find it an excellent remedy for Coughs and Colds.

LUCIUS HOLBROOK, Burlington.

ASTHMA CURED.

Dr. Baxter—Dear Sir—I have been severely afflicted with Asthma for more than twenty-five years, and for months in succession have not been able to lie in bed and enjoy a regular night's rest, and some days would not be able to walk from the house to the barn, a distance of five or six rods. About a year ago I purchased two bottles of Dr. White's Elixir, prepared by you, and commenced taking it according to directions, and am happy to say I found immediate relief—and, with very few exceptions, have had my regular night's sleep ever since.

Yours truly, ARAD BAKER.

PRICE 25 CENTS PER BOTTLE.
Sold wholesale and retail, by L. P. FLETCHER, Montpelier, and by all dealers of medicine.

H. BAXTER, M. D., Proprietor, Highgate, Vt.

SCHOOL BOOKS
AND
STATIONERY!

AT
GEO. W. WILDER'S,
Freeman Building.

A. W. WILDER.
HAYING purchased M. P. WHEELER'S interest in the

LUMBER BUSINESS,
will continue to furnish Frames and finishing Lumber,
Butternut, Bass, Ash, Maple & Birch

LUMBER.
Planing and Joisting, done in workmanlike manner
stair Rails, Newels, Balusters, Table Legs, &c., &c.,
turning and Sawing done on short notice. Terms for
those who pay down. A. W. WILDER,
Montpelier, Dec. 29 1861: f. 20f

GREAT BARGAINS
IN
Fall and Winter Clothing.

We are now prepared to exhibit our Stock of Men's and Boy's Ready-made Fall and Winter Clothing, which for elegance of style, variety and excellence of fabric, and fairness of price, is unequalled in this market. Dealers are respectfully invited to call and examine our stock, with the assurance that they will find the right article upon the best terms.

Also, an extensive assortment of gentlemen's Furnishing Goods, &c., comprising every article necessary for a complete outfit.

Orders for UNIFORMS of the various styles, for Army and Navy Officers and privates, promptly executed, and perfect satisfaction warranted.

GEO. W. SIMMONS & CO.,
OAK HALL,
32 & 34 North Street, Boston, Mass.

Sash, Doors and Blinds.
The place to purchase the BEST QUALITY of

Sash, Doors and Blinds made of the best WESTERN PINE, and in a good

Workmanlike Manner is at the Factory of J. D. CLOGSTON.

Opposite H. H. Wilder's Mill, Montpelier, Vt. Where may be found at all times a good assortment of Sash, Doors and Blinds; also, Tubes for Chain Pumps, &c.

Planing, Jointing, Grooving, and Tenoning done in the best workmanlike manner. While fully acknowledging a constant increase of custom for the past four years, I would earnestly solicit persons who reside in towns adjacent to Montpelier, to want of the above articles, not to fail to consult me, in person, or by letter, before purchasing elsewhere. It shall be my purpose to furnish good work at low prices.

J. D. CLOGSTON.
Montpelier, March 1861.

TO CALIFORNIANS!
NEW ARRANGEMENT.
Regular Mail Steamers

VIA PANAMA RAILROAD,
sailing 1st, 11th, and 31st of Each Month.

THE OLD ESTABLISHED AGENCY OFFICE has been re-opened in Boston, renewing to New England passengers their former facilities for obtaining tickets, staterooms and berths. Number of passengers limited for each Steamship. Early application necessary.

Oct. 29, 1861. J. L. BARTLETT,
10, Broad Street, Boston.

NOTICE.
THIS is to certify that I have this day given my son, O. Orville A. Wiggin, his time during the remainder of his minority, and shall claim none of his earnings nor pay any debts of his contracting after this date.

Attest, B. F. ALDRICH. ANDREW J. WIGGINS.
Hancock, Nov. 9th, 1861. 308f w3*



Once More to the Rescue!

A. J. GEN. WASHBURN, having given me the necessary papers to recruit another Company in Northfield, for the

SEVENTH REGIMENT,
I have opened an Office in Northfield, Roxbury, and Montpelier, and would invite all

ABLE-BODIED MEN,
between the respective ages of 18 and 45, to enroll their names forthwith, in their Country's service.

Now is a good time to enlist, as Government needs more men

TO CRUSH OUT REBELLION
and bring back the Nation to its original splendor and glory. Rally, then,

Once More to the Rescue!
Show by your patriotism that you are willing to lead a helping hand in making Dixie's ground the weapons of her warfare, and become good loyal citizens. The Government will pay \$13 per month, and the State \$7.

A Bounty of One Hundred Dollars will be paid at the expiration of service. Pay and Bounties to commence at the time of enlistment.

DAVID P. BARBER, Recruiting Officer.
Northfield, Nov. 26, 1861. dwkm2w*

EIGHTH REGIMENT!
STAND BY THE FLAG.

20 DOLLARS per month to each Volunteer! \$100 in money at the close of the War! PAY and BOUNTY to commence at the time of Enlistment! A company is now being recruited at Worcester Corner, to be attached to the famous "BUTLER BRIGADE." The company and Regiment good soon to be filled, as they are wanted on the field. Able-bodied, steady, noble men wanted.

EDWARD HALL, Recruiting Officer.
Worcester, Nov. 30, 1861.

Attention Artillery!
150 ABLE-BODIED YOUNG MEN wanted for the first Battery of Light Artillery, to be attached to the celebrated Butler Regiment, \$20 per month, and a bounty of \$100 when discharged. Pay and subsistence from time of enlistment. Recruiting Office at Burnham's Hotel.

GEO. T. HARRARD, Recruiting Officer.
\$20 A. L. Paige is authorized to recruit for this Company in Montpelier and vicinity.

Montpelier Nov. 18, 1861.

SPUNKY LAMOILE.
STILL AT THE HEAD!

COL. SAMUEL MORGAN having been authorized by the Governor to enlist a Company of

101 ABLE-BODIED MEN
to head the

Seventh Regiment Vermont Volunteers!
now is the time for the young men of Vermont to respond to their Country's call, and in a position to be desired most of all.

Pay, \$20 per month. \$100 bounty at the close of the term of service. Time of enlistment three years, unless sooner discharged. Pay to commence at the date of enlistment.

Recruiting offices will be opened immediately at Cambridge, Morrisville and Stowe.

Headquarters at Johnson.

Immediately on enlisting this company will be put on drill, under the instruction of Lieut. Sheldon, of 5 years experience in the regular army.

Lamoile has done nobly; but let the work still go on. And not until the last traces of rebellion have been erased, let us think of anything but war—"War to the Knife, and the Knife to the hilt!"

Johnson, Nov. 23d, 1861.

\$400 WORTH OF CROCKERY
AT AUCTION!

C. W. STORRS
is now opening at his Ware Room,

OLD POST OFFICE,
and will sell for whom it may concern, a large lot of

WHITE CROCKERY,
consisting of

2000 Plates—all sizes,
300 Pitchers do do,
20 Tureens do do,
100 Bowls do do,
30 Meat Dishes do do,
20 Platters do do,
75 Bakers do do,
100 Sets of Cups and Saucers.

The Goods may be examined every day, and bought very low at private sale; and on

SATURDAY, THE 14TH INST.,
Commencing at 10 o'clock A. M.,

and on each succeeding Saturday till sold, I will sell for what I am offered at Auction.

Montpelier, Dec. 9, 1861. 2w

BUY YOUR

FURNITURE

AND

HOUSE FURNISHING

GOODS

OF

J. V. BARCOCK & CO.,

REED'S BLOCK

Montpelier,

National Life Insurance Co.

THE members of this Company are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting for the election of Directors will be held at the office of the Company on the first Monday of January, 1862, at 6 o'clock P. M.

Also, the Directors of the Company are notified to meet at same time and place, for the purpose of re-electing, in whole or part, the guarantee capital stock of the Company.

GEO. W. REED, Secretary.
Montpelier, Dec. 8, 1861. f. 20f w3*

New Style Paper Hangings!

A. BARCOCK & CO'S.